

RAY LEWIS
EDITOR AND
PUBLISHER
HERMANT BLDG.
21 Dundas Square
TORONTO

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE

Digest

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION 1915-49

Vol. 40, No. 47

TORONTO, CANADA

March 19th, 1949

March 17th, 1949

In Honour of Saint Patrick

*A fairy, lost to Fairyland,
Paused to catch her breath.
Pan, travelling fast from Ireland,
Where Death laughed himself to death,
Smiled at the fairy,
She liked his grin,
And all his other chin-chin-chin.*

*He said, "There's a smile upon your lip."
"A butterfly paused to take a sip."
"I see a light playing on your cheek."
"A bee powdered me — I must take a peek."
"There's a dear little dimple in your knee,
A honey-cell just made for me."
And the fairy replied, quite roguishly,
"You dear little goat, I agree, I agree."*

*Pan sealed up the Cell of Ecstasy
In the fairy's little dimpled knee
To preserve it in all its purity.
"When summer has gone and winter has come,
'Twill be nice to know you are waiting at home."
He lifted her up to a place quite high,
Despite the fact that fairies can fly,
And what do you think she found close by?
Fairyland, Slumberland, her Third Eye!*

*Did I not tell you this fairy had strayed
From Fairyland, and was quite afraid.
Her wings were somewhat bruised and crushed,
And her dear little face was hot and flushed.
Pan saw but the beautiful in her eyes,
And his own opened wide in glad surprise.*

*The rest of this tale you can surmise —
Their garden was known as Love's Retreat,
A rendezvous where lovers could meet,
And all those who went there
Grew wings on their feet!*

—RAY LEWIS



HEADLINES!

(Motion Picture Herald—Feb. 19th Issue)

METRO'S HEADS HIT PESSIMISTS

Schary scores prophets of doom at Anniversary convention at Studio. A resounding whack to Hollywood's perennial pessimists and their fellow-traveling prophets of doom, and a review of M-G-M's operations for the past quarter-century, climaxed M-G-M's week-long "Preview of Product" conferences last Thursday at the Culver City Studio.

That day, in the most impressive show of talent strength staged in more than a decade, M-G-M seated approximately 75 stars and name players in front of the speakers' table occupied by company executives and presided over by Louis B. Mayer, studio executive, at the company's 25th Anniversary party.

(The Hollywood Reporter—Feb. 9th Issue)

GIANT PROGRAM

100 million worth of films planned at M-G-M by mid '50. Giant program greatest in industry history.

HOLLYWOOD—The MGM product lineup currently, announced at the meeting here, is as follows:

COMPLETED PRODUCTIONS

LITTLE WOMEN, starring June Allyson, Peter Lawford, Margaret O'Brien and Elizabeth Taylor, produced and directed by Mervyn LeRoy.

THE STRATTON STORY, starring James Stewart and June Allyson, directed by Sam Wood, produced by Jack Cummings.

EDWARD, MY SON, starring Spencer Tracy and Deborah Kerr, directed by George Cukor, produced by Edwin H. Knopf.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME, starring Frank Sinatra, Esther Williams and Gene Kelly, directed by Busby Berkeley, produced by Arthur Freed.

THE SECRET GARDEN, starring Margaret O'Brien, Herbert Marshall and Dean Stockwell, directed by Fred Wilcox, produced by Clarence Brown.

THE BARKLEYS OF BROADWAY, starring Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, directed by Charles Walters, produced by Arthur Freed.

THE GREAT SINNER, starring Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner and Melvyn Douglas, directed by Robert Siodmak, produced by Gottfried Reinhardt.

NEPTUNE'S DAUGHTER, starring Esther Williams and Red Skelton, directed by Edward Buzzell, produced by Jack Cummings.

CONSPIRATOR, starring Robert Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor, directed by Victor Saville, produced by Arthur Hornblow Jr.

GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME, starring Judy Garland and Van Johnson, directed by Robert Z. Leonard, produced by Joe Pasternak.

BIG JACK, starring Wallace Beery, Richard Conte and Marjorie Main, directed by Richard Thorpe, produced by Gottfried Reinhardt.

HIGHLAND LASSIE, starring Edmund Gwenn and Donald Crisp with Lassie, directed by Richard Thorpe, produced by Robert Sisk.

ON THE SOUND STAGES

ANY NUMBER CAN PLAY, starring Clark Gable and Alexis Smith, directed by Mervyn LeRoy, produced by Arthur Freed.

THE FORSYTE SAGA, starring Greer Garson, Errol Flynn, Walter Pidgeon and Robert Young, directed by Compton Bennett, produced by Leon Gordon.

MADAME BOVARY, starring Jennifer Jones, Van Heflin, Louis Jordan and James Mason, directed by Vincente Minnelli, produced by Pandro S. Berman.

THAT MIDNIGHT KISS, starring Kathryn Grayson, Jose Iturbi and introducing Mario Lanza, directed by Norman Taurog, produced by Joe Pasternak.

SCENE OF THE CRIME, starring Van Johnson, Gloria DeHaven, Tom Drake and Arlene Dahl, directed by Roy Rowland, produced by Harry Rapp.

BORDER INCIDENT, starring George Murphy and Ricardo Montalban, directed by Anthony Mann, produced by Nicholas Naylack.

IN PREPARATION

OPERATION MALAYA, starring Spencer Tracy and James Stewart, directed by Richard Thorpe, produced by Edwin H. Knopf.

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN, starring Judy Garland, directed by Busby Berkeley, produced by Arthur Freed.

STORM OVER VIENNA, starring Walter Pidgeon, Peter Lawford, Ethel Barrymore and Janet Leigh, directed by George Sidney, produced by Carey Wilson.

INTRUDER IN THE DUST, starring Claude Jarman Jr., produced and directed by Clarence Brown.

BATTLEGROUND, starring Robert Taylor, Van Johnson, John Hodiak, Ricardo Montalban and Keenan Wynn.

ON THE TOWN, starring Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly, directed by Kelly and Stanley Donen, produced by Arthur Freed.

DEVIL'S DOORWAY, starring Robert Taylor, produced by Nicholas Naylack.

MAN AND WIFE, starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn.

REFORMER AND THE REDHEAD, starring Lana Turner, produced by Norman Panama and Melvin Frank.

PLEASE BELIEVE ME, starring Deborah Kerr and Van Johnson, produced by Val Lewton.

THE MINIVER SEQUEL, starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon, produced by Sidney Franklin.

THE TENDER HOURS, starring Jane Powell and Ricardo Montalban, produced by Jack Cummings.

KEY TO THE CITY, starring Clark Gable, produced by Wayne Griffin.

QUO VADIS, directed by John Huston, produced by Arthur Hornblow Jr.

YOUNG BESS, produced by Sidney Franklin.

BODIES AND SOULS, starring Glenn Ford, produced by Pandro S. Berman.

SUMMER STOCK, starring Gene Kelly, produced by Joe Pasternak.

THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL, produced by Robert Sisk.

Other pictures in preparation for the 1949-50 schedule: "Father of the Bride," starring Spencer Tracy, to be produced by Pandro S. Berman; "Follow That Cab," starring Red Skelton; "Duchess of Idaho," starring Esther Williams, to be produced by Joe Pasternak; "The Black Hand," to be produced by William H. Wright; "Side Street," to be produced by Sam Zimbalist; "Ambush," to be produced by Armand Deutsch; "King Solomon's Mine," to be produced by Zimbalist; "Stars in My Crown," to be produced by Gottfried Reinhardt; "Royal Wedding," to be produced by Wright; "Wild Country," to be produced by Carey Wilson; "Lovely to Look At," to be produced by Jack Cummings; "East Side, West Side," to be produced by Voldegar Velluguin; "His Excellency From Brazil," to be produced by Pasternak; "Murder at Harvard," to be produced by Frank Taylor; "The Outriders," to be produced by Richard Goldstone; "Robinson Crusoe," to be produced by Zimbalist; "Romance of Henry Menafee," to be produced by Edwin H. Knopf; "Abiding Vision," "Basra" and "Tahiti," to be produced by Freed; "Manhunt," to be produced by Sam Marx; "Tension," to be produced by Robert Sisk; "Running of the Tide," to be produced by Edwin H. Knopf; "Scaramouche" and "Belle of New York," to be produced by Freed; "Three Little Words," to be produced by Cummings; "Singing in the Rain," to be produced by Freed; "Kiss of Fire," and a Preston Sturges original story to star Clark Gable.

(Boxoffice—Feb. 12th Issue)

MGM PUTS 67 FILMS IN WORKS

Optimism Is the Keynote As Leo's Toppers Meet

M.G.M.'s PROSPERITY PLAN!

NOTE: There have been a few title changes in above listing.

RAY PRESENTS



RADIO CITY still gives visitors to New York the biggest value in a show, with the showing of "Little Women", MGM, the stage show presented everything from grand opera, (Pagliacci) arias and orchestral excerpts, a dog-act and a glittering ballet, finishing with a spectacular ensemble number of male chorus and dancers.

Louisa May Alcott's famous story has only increased its charm through the years. I tried very hard to brush aside the memory of Katharine Hepburn as Jo, but she kept returning as an unforgettable image in the former RKO production of "Little Women", despite the fact that June Allyson gives a vibrant and charming interpretation of Jo, and in addition added to the boyishness of Jo, a grace of beauty in face and form.

The scenes in that Concord home, with its Little Women, its gracious and understanding mater, the laughter, the gayety of these girls, the coziness of their Christmas cheer, and the spirit of good neighborliness, as expressed by Sir C. Aubrey Smith as Mr. Laurence, Peter Lawford as Laurie, and Mary Astor as "Marmee", all contribute in maintaining that which the author sought to convey, an old world, formal, mighty respectable, but abounding in charm and surely in the art of living.

Mervyn LeRoy produced and directed "Little Women" and with colour by Technicolor, here is a picture which is certainly easy to take. Rossano Brazzi, one of David Selznick's Italian import stars, is cast as the professor. They tell me that when Brazzi arrived in America, he could not speak a word of English. Well, at least he has learned to speak his lines in "Little Women", but he was not himself, for anyone who has seen Brazzi in the Italian pictures "Furia" and "The King's Jester", knows that he is an unusually fine artist, that he has an abundance of screen charm, that he is natural, fascinating, qualities which were not evident in his professorial characterization. It may be that Brazzi is too new to America, and to Hollywood; it may be that he is better cast as a gay Lothario; it may be that he should have had more time to become acclimated; and it may be that his art can be better expressed in his own language. It could be that after "The King's Jester", I expected so much from him, that I was disappointed. However, June Allyson as Jo was so dynamic, so wholesome and refreshing, that she was sufficient to carry "Little Women".

Elizabeth Taylor as Amy, and Janet Leigh as Meg, are both good to look at and most acceptable as the sisters of Jo. Margaret O'Brien gave some pleasing flashes as Beth, while Olin Howlin as the schoolteacher, Will Wright as the storekeeper, Ellen Corby as Sophie, respectively, only having bits, presented characters which were alive.

Some of the groupings of the Little Women with their "marmee" and father, some of the landscape backgrounds were gems in colour and composition.

IT was pleasant to read on the financial page of the New York Times, Saturday March 12th, that Canada's holdings in U.S. dollars, combined with gold, are \$997,800,000, an increase of \$497,000,000 since 1947. This is in accordance with a report of the Foreign Exchange Control Board. Increase in U.S. direct invest-

ment in Canadian Industry cites these interesting figures: in 1945, the inflow totaled \$17,000,000, and in 1948, \$68,000,000. The report emphasizes that such investment contributed directly to the development of Canada's natural resources.

Fifty percent of commodity exports went to the United States, compared with 39% in 1947, and 33% went to the sterling area, compared with 41% in 1947. Incidentally there was an increase of \$70,000,000 in Canada's net receipts from the tourist trade. In respect to the Tourist Trade, we in the Film Trade know that John J. Fitzgibbons secured the co-operation of Hollywood producers, who sold Canada through the screen to the American people who were holiday-bound.

We in Canada have always been appreciative of Hollywood co-operation and the friendly attitude which the American public has shown toward Canada and Canadians. This does not just happen, it starts from the top and works through the people of both the United States and Canada, and we remember very well the war years, the Canadian War Services Committee and the American War Activities Committee, the short subjects produced in Hollywood with big name stars to put over our Victory Bond Campaigns. Emerson said, "Hitch your wagon to a star." Canada could improvise by adding the stars and stripes and without either of our countries showing an excessive degree of pride, tell old man world, who is continually acting as a Referee between fighting nations, to take a look at Canada and the United States, and learn from us how to do business with each other, how to enjoy in our leisure what each country has to offer, and how to remain good neighbors.

WARNER BROS. certainly has the star bee buzzing in its bonnet. Following the big David Selznick star loan deal, Warner Bros. has signed John Wayne and Randolph Scott to multiple picture deals and is reported negotiating similar contracts with John Garfield and Kirk Douglas.

Recently Warner Bros. acquired multiple picture commitments with James Cagney. Bryan Foy is another Warner possibility, following two pictures which he will make for Eagle-Lion (Hollywood). "Trapped" and "Port of New York."

The opening of the David Selznick production, "Portrait of Jenny" has been changed from March 23rd at the Rivoli, New York to March 30th. It is reported that David Selznick and Jennifer Jones, star of "Portrait of Jenny," will attend the premiere showing in New York, which reminds us to remind you it would not be a good speculation to sell David Selznick short, for in addition to "Portrait of Jenny" and "Fallen Idol", the British Academy Award picture, David Selznick will have several other big pictures to be released under the SRO trademark, which company is in the process of re-organization.

NEWs from Italy is as good as Italian food, hospitality, and Italian productions. A bill to abolish all present import taxes and quota restrictions on foreign-made films is under discussion by the Italian Cabinet. The bill, following Cabinet discussion, is to be submitted to the constituent assembly, and the approval of that body is reported to be certain.

The bill is the result of negotiations between Gerald M. Mayer, continental manager of the Motion Picture Export Association of the United States, and Italian

(Continued on Page 8)

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

THE agitation of Dr. Gordon Bates, secretary of the Health League of Canada, finally resulted in the announced withdrawal of censorship permits for all so-called sex education pictures by Chairman O. J. Silverthorne of the Ontario Board of Moving Picture Censors.

Mr. Silverthorne intimated that these films had been withdrawn from circulation in Ontario pending a review of the situation which would include consultations with appropriate organizations, apparently for the creation of a definite policy of control.

The government move followed the recent showing of "Mom and Dad" at the Biltmore and Danforth Theatres in Toronto and the Odeon Elm-dale in Ottawa where crowds of patrons lined up for a block to gain admission.

The situation came just after Ed Wells, former secretary of the Canadian Moving Picture Distributors Association, had joined Maynard Films at Toronto to handle promotion on "Sins of the Fathers". This Canadian-made feature played five weeks for its opener at the Royal Alexandra, Toronto, last year. Neither "Mom and Dad" nor "Sins of the Fathers" were named by Chairman Silverthorne in his announcement but they come under the heading of sex-education pictures.

* * *

"Concert Magic", to be released by Cardinal Films, Toronto, was privately screened for His Excellency, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, Governor General of Canada, and guests at Rideau Hall, Ottawa.

* * *

R. E. Ferguson has been appointed sales manager of Gaumont-Kalee Limited at the Toronto headquarters of the equipment company.

Hollywood Theatre Runs Novel Contest

The Hollywood Theatre is running a novel contest in the form of a competition for a design for their new carpet. One thousand dollars in prizes will be given altogether, divided among five classifications of entries: 1 — The Public; 2 — University and Art College students; 3 — Technical Schools; 4 — Secondary Schools; and 5 — Public Schools. Entry forms are available from all Premier Theatres as well as in schools and from art dealers.

In a display in the lobby of the Hollywood, are sample sketches and a 27" x 36" piece of carpeting to guide in the drafting of sketches. Contest closes midnight, April 11th.

Still another grouping of theatres in Toronto has found three Odeon units in a booking combination, these being the new Humber, the Danforth and the Christie, starting with the playing of "The Blind Goddess". Previously the Christie had had a three-weeks' run of "The Best Years of Our Lives" by itself.

* * *

The Mason Blvd. residence of Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Taylor was the scene of a screening of the British picture, "Quartet", for the newspaper columnists. The feature will go into the International Cinema, it is understood, of which Mrs. Taylor is the manager.

* * *

Ed Harris, general manager of Gaumont-Kalee Limited, Toronto, declared that perfected television equipment is ready for installation in Canadian theatres and could be in use within six months after Ottawa gave the go-ahead signal. He raised the question, however, as to the eventual television-presentation policy.

In England, the J. Arthur Rank theatres had an agreement with the British Broadcasting Co. for the use of its TV programs. "But who wants to look at a BBC program?" he asked — inferring that the prospective CBC offerings in Canada might be in the same class.

* * *

The Holland Theatre at Bradford, Ont., is the latest to have a lost-child incident. Leonard Hunt, 10, was found asleep in this theatre at 1.30 A.M. after a provincial police search.

* * *

The King Theatre, College Street, Toronto, held the Jewish feature, "My Son", for a second week. Prior to this attraction, the King had a nice engagement of "Musica Proibita", from Italy.

* * *

The College Theatre, Brantford, has introduced dinnerware premiums.

* * *

Lou Davidson, accompanied by J. J. Robinette, K.C., Toronto, was in Ottawa for the hearing of the appeal from the conviction of a lady patron of the Francais Theatre in connection with a Foto-Nite award last July.

* * *

Prices for the "Joan of Arc" engagement at the Empire Theatre, Windsor, scaled from 50c to \$1.20 with a policy of continuous performances and no reserved seats.

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

Entered as Second Class Matter

RAY LEWIS

Editor-in-Chief

PAUL FIRESTONE

Assistant to the Editor

Address all mail to the Publisher
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST
COMPANY, LIMITED

21 Dundas Square - Toronto

Telephone: Waverley 4929

Cable: Raydigest

Established 1915. Publication weekly.

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly

— Correspondents —

A. L. FAIRWEATHER.....Saint John, N.B.
J. J. CONKLIN.....Winnipeg, Man.
BRUCE PEACOCK.....Regina, Sask.
JACK DROY.....Vancouver, B.C.
WILL McLAUGHLIN.....Ottawa, Ont.
BILL PRESS.....Toronto, Ont.

The opening of the University Theatre on Bloor Street West, Toronto, will bring a new Famous Players' "team" in a partnership of the Tivoli with the new house for bookings starting with "Joan of Arc", it is understood. The Eglinton, paired with the Tivoli for a number of years, will probably go second run.

* * *

The sudden death occurred at his home in New Toronto of H. J. Swetman, 66, who had been the manager of the Community at Kapuskasing for many years before he proceeded to London, England, early in the war to take charge of the Beaver Club, a rendezvous of Canadian soldiers.

Immediate survivors include his son, Wing Comdr. W. H. Swetman, RCAF, and a sister. At the time of his death Mr. Swetman was secretary of the Canadian Save the Children Fund.

* * *

Two holdovers in Hamilton units of Famous Players included "Johnny Belinda" at the Tivoli and "The Snake Pit" at the Century, both remaining for three weeks.

* * *

The University of Toronto Film Society held a special preview showing last Saturday at the NFB screening room at 4 University Ave. of their "first venture in movie production." Film is a documentary, a month in the making, of the work of the University Settlement, a Community Chest recreation centre for young children and adolescents.

* * *

It has been pointed out to this column, that 20th Century Theatres' new art house on Bloor Street near Yonge is to be called the Towne Cinema and will open with Cardinal's concert on film "Concert Magic."

Canada Gets U.A.'s French-Swedish Bill

United Artists will release in Canada the double-billed foreign film hit program, "Passionelle" and "Torment," it was announced today by Gradwell L. Sears, UA president.

"Passionelle," one of the most electric of the recent French films, and "Torment," a prize-winning Swedish film import, were teamed by Martin Levine and Oliver Unger to make up one of the most widely acclaimed film bills shown this past season.

Opening the Canadian territory, the dual program will have its Dominion premiere in Toronto, at Loew's Yonge Street Theatre, on March 31st.

Mr. Unger is now in Toronto conferring with Loew and UA officials on what promises to be one of the biggest campaigns of its type that Toronto has seen in some time.

English Film Into Fifth Week in Edmonton

"Quiet Weekend", the ABP family comedy, released in Canada by International Film Distributors, is turning in this precedent breaking run at the Varscona, Edmonton. This is the picture that ran twelve weeks at Toronto's International Cinema, eight in Montreal, seven in Vancouver, and four in Victoria.

Business is due in part to the special press campaign that accompanies the film on its Canadian engagements, in Edmonton conducted by J. J. Lieberman, Odeon supervisor for the city and Rialto Theatre manager with the collaboration of Sam Binder, Avenue Theatre manager and suburban advertising director for Odeon Mid-Western Theatres.

MGM Studios At Production Peak

With nine pictures now before the cameras or in final rehearsal the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios in Culver City, Calif., are at their highest production peak since 1945. The productions now shooting are "Madame Bovary," "The Forsyte Saga," "That Midnight Kiss," "Scene of the Crime," "Malaya," "The Red Danube" and "Intruder in the Dust." Rehearsing on the sound stages and ready to start soon are "On the Town" and "Annie Get Your Gun." Completed but not yet scheduled for national release are "Any Number Can Play," "Border Incident," "Big Jack," "Challenge to Lassie," "Edward, My Son," "In the Good Old Summer Time," "Neptune's Daughter," "The Secret Garden," "The Stratton Story" and "Tale of the Navajos."

TRADE HEADLINES

Paramount's 1949 Revenue Tops 1948 for First Ten Weeks

CBS Enters Television Distribution Field With Some 82 Features and Shorts — Offering First Run Now

Eastman Kodak Will Disburse Record \$13 Million In Wage Dividends to 50,000 Western Hemisphere Employees

MGM Hits Four Year Production Peak With 9 In Work, 2 in Preparation, 1 Recording, and 6 Cutting

SRO Sales Staff to be Reorganized
Four Sales Execs Leave To Join Neil Agnew

British Board of Trade Favors Quota Reduction

Universal to Make 30 This Year, Stockholders Told, Compared With 24 Last Year

Monogram To Invest \$4,000,000 In UK Production

AFM and IATSE Spokesman Say Locals May Make Concessions to Theatre Owners in Stage Shows

Columbia Enters 16mm. Distribution Field
"In Areas Not Serviced by Regular Theatres"

NEW RELEASE

NEW SERIES

A Canadian Cameo

MARCH 15

ALL ABOUT EMILY

Emily is a very modern goose who starts laying golden eggs, and proceeds thereby to disrupt the business and scientific world. A sprightly satire from the pen of Lister Sinclair, for C.B.C.'s "Stage 46" and subsequent repeat performances. It makes a sparkling featurette for your screen!

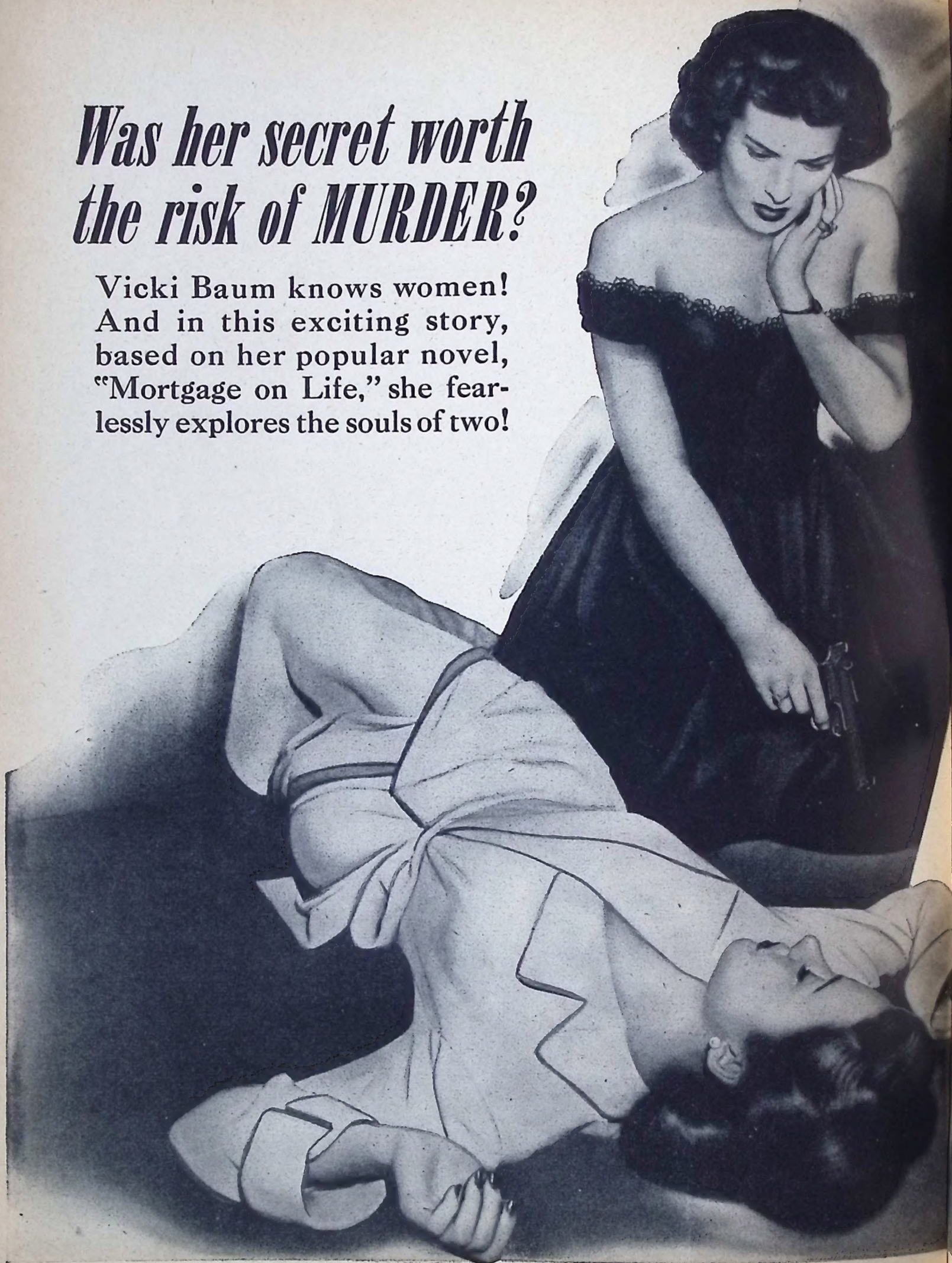
LISTEN TO "Stage 49" C.B.C., Sunday night,
March 20. "Emily" will be presented
on a double bill.

An Associated Screen Picture

BOOK FROM YOUR NEAREST
EMPIRE—UNIVERSAL
E X C H A N G E

Was her secret worth the risk of MURDER?

Vicki Baum knows women!
And in this exciting story,
based on her popular novel,
"Mortgage on Life," she fear-
lessly explores the souls of two!



MAUREEN O'HARA
MELVYN DOUGLAS
GLORIA GRAHAME
BILL WILLIAMS

in **A**
Woman's Secret

with
VICTOR JORY • MARY PHILIPS
JAY C. FLIPPEN

A DORE SCHARY Presentation

Produced by HERMAN J. MANKIEWICZ

Directed by NICHOLAS RAY

Screen Play by HERMAN J. MANKIEWICZ



UA President Condemns Double-Billing of Hits

Terming the proposed double-bill booking of two of the season's top attractions, "Red River" and "Paleface," which Fox Wisconsin Theatres planned to open in three Milwaukee houses last week, "the most flagrant, dangerous and downright stupid abuse of exhibitor power," Gradwell L. Sears, president of United Artists, recently announced that UA would not deliver a print of "Red River", the Howard Hawks production, starring John Wayne and Montgomery Clift, which it releases.

The double-billing of the two important films, which was to have been followed by 14 subsequent bookings, led Mr. Sears to defy threatened freeze-outs by the theatre chain, which he charged guilty of the "kind of thinking that is precisely what is wrong with the motion picture business."

Abuse of Exhibitor Power

Mr. Sears full statement follows:—"The booking of "Red River" and "Paleface" on the same bill in Milwaukee is, in my mind, the most flagrant, dangerous and downright stupid abuse of exhibitor power in my recollection. To chew up top product and

spit it out like so many melon seeds is sabotaging our industry. This kind of thinking is precisely what is wrong with the motion picture business.

"Mr. Balaban naturally can sell his pictures as he chooses, but I for one will not tolerate "Red River" being ruined in any territory by being double billed with the season's other big picture.

"The exhibitor's threats of a freeze-out, direct and implied, do not deter me for one moment from this decision. I shall refuse to service this booking under any circumstances. Every producer, distributor and every fair-minded exhibitor will recognize the justice of my position."

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

officials. Under its terms importers would deposit in a special fund, 2,500,000 lire (\$4,347 at the official rate) for each film imported into Italy. This would be in the form of a ten-year loan without interest to an agency specially created to manage the fund.

The importer, in return, would receive a certificate consisting of three coupons, each of which would authorize him to unblock immediately from frozen funds of the foreign moving picture company he represents, the equivalent of 2,500,000 lire in foreign currency.

The agency administering the fund would, in turn, lend capital at 6% interest to Italian producers, up to a maximum of 70% of the estimated cost of a film they would produce in Italy. Producers of films made jointly by American and Italian companies in Italy would receive the same treatment.

Half of the interest would be used for operational costs of the Italian agency and half for the establishment of an agency in New York for the importation of Italian films to the U.S.

THE story concerning a deal made by the Vatican in respect to the use of \$3,000,000 in American frozen funds to be repaid to the Motion Picture Association in New York has been denied. The story is now reported that the U.S. Episcopate is planning to build a seminary for the education of American Jesuits in the Monte Mario section of Rome and requires lire for the project. The proposal was made by Cardinal Spellman in negotiations with representatives of the Motion Picture Association of America, in New York City. The transaction, Italian officials state, is being carried out through normal channels and is similar to other deals which have been made in the past.

Mr. and Mrs. Haskell Masters were recent visitors in New York City.

Joseph Marks, Canadian SRO representative spent several days last week in New York conferring with Leonard Case, vice-president and Sidney Deneau, general sales manager of SRO.

Neil Agnew, Charles Casanave, Manny Brown formerly of Paramount, Buffalo, Jules Levey and Earl Hammons have been holding conferences in New York.

In a recent interview with Neil Agnew, he advised The Digest to watch for important world sales announcements.

MARCELLO GEROSI, Superfilm Distributing Company and one of the first distributors of Italian Films in the U.S., is now in Rome conferring with Scalera and

Minerva Films. George Margolin of Continental Motion Pictures is preparing the titles on two new Italian film imports.

Alliance Films has added two new Italian productions to its already formidable list, "Forever Yours" with Beniamino Gigli, completely in English, and "Fear no Evil", the Life of Saint Benedict, in Italian with English titles.

Nat Saland, Mercury Films, is in Hollywood completing production arrangements.

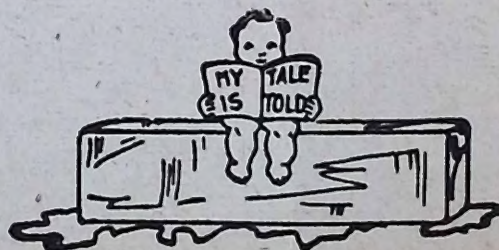
Alliance Films, Canadian franchise holder for Favorite Films, has closed a recent deal for a series of "Dead End Kid" pictures with Moe Kerman, president of Favorite Films.

Paramount has purchased Gene Fowler's biography of Mack Sennett, "Father Goose" as the basis for its picture on Sennett.

Quota cuts in Great Britain are tops in discussion as a solution of the British studio crisis. Latest announcement from Rank organization, following the closing of the Gainsborough and Shepherd's Bush Studios, is that production is to be restricted to 25 pictures annually; with an all-round budget of \$16,000,000. This statement is reported to make imperative a British Film Quota reduction.

THE United Artists sale deal is again a topic of conversation, conversation in which the names of Si Fabian and Ted Gamble are introduced. There have been no figures mentioned, save the Mary Pickford-Charles Chaplin valuation of \$5,400,000.

It is estimated that "Hamlet", the J. Arthur Rank-Laurence Olivier production and "Red Shoes" may each gross over \$3,500,000 in the United States, considered terrific totals for British films, which reminds me to remind exhibitors what my Scottish housekeeper, Mary, said in connection with box-office results, "class or mass appeal, all tocheses (backsides) are the same that pay at the box-office."



« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

BUSINESS continues good, despite some heavy opposition from the annual Minto Club's Ice Follies which drew over 25,000 spectators during its three nights at the Auditorium last week, and the current week of the Ottawa Music Festival which is attracting large audiences to its daily sessions at several midtown churches, parish halls and collegiate auditoriums. A quick tour around the first-run spots of Uptown Ottawa the other evening disclosed long lines of film fans waiting patiently to gain entrance to their favorite theatres. All of which proves that there is nothing wrong with the business that a good picture cannot cure, despite the moans of a small minority in their letters to the daily press castigating all the works of the film studios as fit "only for children and morons."

* * *

George Degnon, popular public relations man for RKO-Radio Pictures in Eastern Canada, and Don Watts, manager of the Nelson (20th Century) Theatre, met last week to congratulate each other on their joint efforts in putting over the package bill of "She" and "The Last Days of Pompeii". All house records were broken during the nine days run of the Nelson's dual show.

* * *

A post-card from Ray Tubman, now nearing the end of his vacation at sunny Miami Beach, Florida. Ray writes a few lines to tell us that "Berets are not worn on the beach", that the weather has been perfect and that he met quite a few former Ottawa show folk now in residence there, including Irene Galvin and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. MacAdam, who operated a successful repertoire company in the Canadian capital some twenty years ago.

* * *

Through the use of many tricky devices, the National Film Board succeeded in turning the Peace Tower's 53-bell carillon into an orchestral instrument. A microphone placed on the roof of the House of Commons, NFB sound engineers and cameramen, and the Dominion carillonneur, Robert Donnell, all aided in the orchestral debut of the powerful musical bells on Parliament Hill. The famed carillon plays an important part in the original musical score of "A Capital Plan", now showing in Canadian theatres. The color film, one of the NFB's "Canada Carries On" series, deals with the Greber Plan for the extension and beautification of Ottawa.

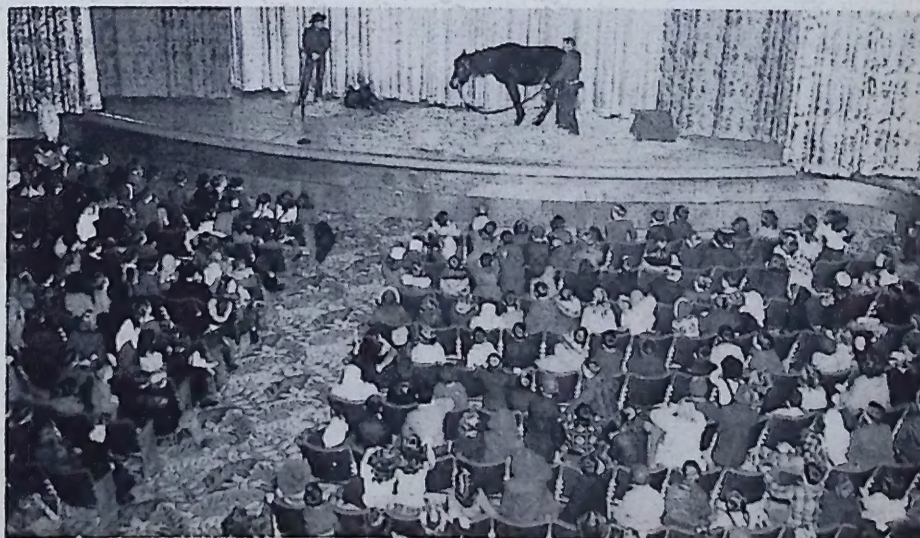
When ticket-seller Phyllis Morris looked up from the business of checking her cash before turning the money in to the manager's private office, she found herself face-to-face with a young armed bandit who shoved a note through the wicket which told her; "This is a hold-up. Hand over all your bills and don't move for five minutes after I leave". It all happened the other night at the Rideau (20th Century) Theatre, when the bandit got clean away with \$393, about one third of the cash on hand. Manager Barney Simmons and his assistant, Gerald Dillon, immediately called the police. They are still searching for the escaped gunman.

* * *

Louis Gauthier, manager of the Cartier (Famous Players) Theatre across the Ottawa River in Hull, Que., recently staged a childrens' fashion show, the first ever held in Hull. A group of 25 children acted as models for the display of new Spring styles for the youngsters which was sponsored by the Main Street firm of Le Royaume des Bebes.



Dewey Bloom, MGM's Canadian publicity chief and instigator of the cocktail party for Helen Allen held at the Variety clubrooms last week is presenting an engraved scroll of appreciation, signed by some fifty members of the industry who participated in the presentation, to Helen for being a good sport, for her friendliness and fair attitude and her service to both her many readers and those in the industry in helping moviegoers with their selection of their film fare.



A section of the packed house at one of Jim Hardiman's recent movie club "meetings" at the Odeon London where stage shenanigans the kids loved accompanied the movie showing of "The Overlanders"

More than 350 Ottawa children were guests of the management of the Capitol Theatre during a regular matinee showing of Walt Disney's "So Dear To My Heart." Fred C. McCann, executive director of the Ottawa Boys' Clubs, and Bill Cullum, assistant to manager Ray Tubman of the Capitol, arranged the entertainment for the children who enjoyed every minute of the show. Mr. McCann was heard to remark that Mr. Disney's production lived up to everything said about it in a recent Ottawa Journal editorial.

* * *

Jack Gibson, who has been one of Ottawa's most active showmen since arriving here a few months ago to manage the Elmdale Theatre for Odeon, has started another prestige - building tie - up with a local firm. Jack's latest co-operative venture is a weekly broadcast from the Elmdale stage, sponsored by Campbell's Glass Wax and aired over radio station CKCO. The sponsor has donated a carton of the product as a door prize each evening, while the extra entertainment on the stage is attracting bigger and better audiences.

Winnipeg News

By J. J. CONKLIN

WINNIPEG motion picture theatre projectionists have appointed Samuel Herbst, prominent trade union official, to aid their union in breaking a deadlock on negotiations of new agreements for projectionists in 26 theatres. Most of the 26 theatres are operated by Western Theatres Ltd. A few are independently owned.

The union said it was seeking in the 26 theatres wage rates comparable to those it has obtained in agreements recently signed with the Famous Players and Odeon Theatres chains. It said the last agreement signed with the managements of the 26 theatres was in 1946, and there have been no wage increases since that time.

* * *

Winnipeg Division of the Canadian Picture Pioneers held its annual movie ball at the Marlborough hotel March 15 with Charlie Cruickshanks' band in attendance.

The public was invited to attend as well as members of the film industry in the city and associated firms.

Proceeds will go to the Pioneers' Benevolent Fund which helps members of the film industry who are destitute or ill.

* * *

Herb Black, formerly Office Manager for Selznick Releasing Organization, has joined Alliance Films Ltd. in a similar capacity. . . Miss Edythe Dworkin has left MGM to take over Irene Knock's duties at Alliance. Miss Knocke has left Winnipeg for Victoria, B.C.

Western exhibitors, being in need of shorter features for their week-end programs, have welcomed the reissue of the Hal Roach Streamliners by Alliance.

* * *

Hon. William Morton, minister of public utilities, was sworn into two more government offices Friday in his office in the legislative building by R. E. Moffat, clerk of executive council. Mr. Morton took oaths to administer the Manitoba Censor Board and the Manitoba Farm Loan Board.

* * *

Deanna Durbin, Manitoba-born movie actress, will not be coming to the city for the 75th birthday celebration in June, C. F. Greene, anniversary director, said.

Miss Durbin had made plans to go to Italy this summer before she received the invitation to Winnipeg.

On Wednesday, March 2nd, eighty members of the Motion Picture Industry gathered at the St. Charles Hotel to wish Eddie Newman, Met manager, good luck on his journey into matrimony. It was an enjoyable evening, but the enjoyment did not detract from the sincerity of the good wishes heaped upon Eddie. The marriage vows were exchanged on March 7th, and Eddie and Mrs. Newman are spending their honeymoon in Minneapolis.

* * *

A party of 80 boys and girls from Lac du Bonnet arrived in Winnipeg. They came to see Hamlet, playing at the Garrick. "It's on our course of study for Grade 11," they said.

Last Saturday, Kenora, Ont., boys and girls came in specially to see Hamlet.

* * *

The downtown theatres in Winnipeg for the past few weeks have been doing a very satisfactory business despite the abnormal winter weather experienced since Dec. 1. Many two week runs have been screened as a result of generous patronage accorded. At the Capitol, the 4,400 seat house, "Johnny Belinda" had a four week's run, a record for a feature of this high type, at no advance in prices. Harold A. Bishop, supervisor for Famous Players' seven theatres in the city, has an uncanny way of picking out the features that are worthy of a longer run than one week. Among recent prolonged showings have been: Arthur Rank's presentation of 'Sir Lawrence Olivier in "Hamlet", two weeks at the Garrick, at \$1.50 top admission; "The Best Years of Our Lives", three weeks at the Dominion, a second recent showing in Winnipeg; J. Arthur Rank's "The End of the River", two weeks at the Garrick; "Road House", two weeks at the new Gaiety; "Don't Trust Your Husband", two weeks at the Odeon; "Gung Ho!", two weeks at the Rialto.

* * *

First steps toward the formation of a film council were taken at the meeting of Transcona School Board. Trustees concurred in the request of a representative of National Film Board for the school projector to be placed at the disposal of the council, if and when formed.

Purpose of the organization is to foster adult education.

A canvass is to be made of churches and fraternal organizations from which the members of the council will be drawn.

Transcona is a suburb east of Winnipeg, a C.P.R. centre.

"The Red Shoes" started a three week's run on March 10 at the Odeon Theatre at \$2.00 top, proceeds of the night to go to the White Guild of the Winnipeg General Hospital.

Paramount Announces More "A" Pictures

Underscoring the policy of not placing a quantity ceiling on production operations, Henry Ginsberg, Paramount Studio Head, today disclosed that a number of top-bracket pictures, in addition to those already announced, are being planned for production this year and that the company's output may reach a total of 28 to 30 films.

The additional pictures planned include: another William Wyler picture or a George Stevens film, or pictures by both of these noted Producer-Directors; the Hal Wallis production of "The Furies," based on Niven Busch's best-selling novel of the West and starring Barbara Stanwyck.

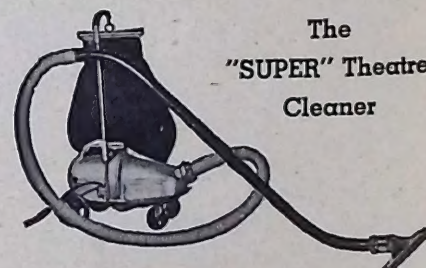
The Ginsberg announcement followed last week's East-West executive conference at the company's Hollywood studio at which Paramount's 1949 picture-making plans were outlined in detail.

One of the films screened for the visiting executives was William Wyler's first production for Paramount, "The Heiress," starring Olivia de Havilland, Montgomery Clift and Ralph Richardson.

The contemplated George Stevens film will mark his first production since his association with Paramount.

Winnipeg Film Board of Trade Elects 1949 Slate

Elections were held at their annual meeting on Monday, March 7th, and officers returned were: President, A. Feinstein; Vice-President, M. Nackimson; Secretary, S. Gunn; Fire Marshall, I. H. Huber; Deputy Marshall, I. Levitt.



The
"SUPER" Theatre
Cleaner

Portable - Powerful - Efficient

Order Your Theatre
From Supply Dealer

PLANT MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT CO
VANCOUVER TORONTO MONTREAL

Worth reading-



THE ROXY THEATRE

SASKATOON, SASK.

*published this advertisement in the
Saskatoon Star Phoenix--
November 12th, 1948,
about*

**Dominion's
Sound and
Projection
Equipment**

Goodbye the Old . . .

Welcome to the New!

After many years of faithful service in which the Roxy Theatre gained fame for outstanding sound reproduction, our system has been removed with a pat on the back and with gratitude for service rendered.

In the past few days, engineers from Dominion Sound Equipments have been laboring for hours on end to install the latest and most efficient projectors and sound system available. This system is so outstanding that every range of sound will be reproduced as fine as it can possibly be by mechanical and electronic means. You will hear the high tones as well as the low ones, clearer and more distinctly than ever was possible before.

We have chosen this equipment so that our patrons will be able to enjoy the world's finest pictures on the finest equipment available.

Dominion Sound Equipments are to be congratulated on their outstanding contribution to screen entertainment. Many thanks to their engineers for their tireless job of installing this equipment without interrupting our regular programs. Many thanks also to Streb's Electric for their tremendous job of re-wiring our projection booth without closing our theatre.

This improvement is in keeping with the policy of the Roxy, and that is "To give our patrons the finest films available, in a comfortable and cosy theatre, with courtesy to all, our byword."

Get the Roxy habit . . . it's best.

Faithfully yours,

THE MANAGEMENT
ROXY THEATRE.

Dominion Sound Equipments

LIMITED

Head Office: 4040 St. Catherine St. West, Montreal

Branches at: HALIFAX - SAINT JOHN - TORONTO - WINNIPEG - CALGARY - REGINA - VANCOUVER

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

THE Vancouver branch of Canadian Picture Pioneers has added four new members since the last meeting. They are: Albert Pearson, owner of the Rex Theatre in Merritt; Sam Ellerington and Hank Leslie, Orpheum Vancouver; and George Gerrard, Strand Vancouver. The Orpheum, Vancouver's largest theatre, now has seven CPP members, which shows the house is run by oldtime showmen. The projection room is manned by four CPP veterans. Two stage hands and Ivan Ackery, manager, complete the list. The new slate of officers are all live wires, and are combing the entire B.C. amusement business for 25-year members.

Construction delays have put back the opening of the Studio Theatre here to March 25. The theatre boasts the largest neon sign in Canada, according to Mickey Golden, manager. The sign covers the entire front and is over 30 feet high.

Four members of the Universal production staff spent five days in Vancouver making a number of background shots for a picture called "Contraband", movie version of a factual case which took place in Vancouver. The four Universal Hollywood representatives were: Bill Castle, Director; Production-Manager, Dewey Starkey; Director of Photography, Maurey Gertman; and assistant-cameraman, Larry Cairns. Many mountain shots and shots of the Canadian Customs building at Blain on the B.C. border were taken. Trans-Canada Films of Vancouver made all contacts and arrangements, including backgrounds and casting for the doubles and extras which was done at the TCF studio. Two Vancouver actors doubled for Dan Duryea and Howard Duff who will head the cast. Wally Hamilton, TCF head, and Monica Salmon, of TCF, casting director, did an excellent job for the Hollywood boys.

Famous Players will spend \$50,000 on their newly acquired Edison Theatre at New Westminster, building a new front, reseating and new rest rooms. Temporarily the house is under the management of Cecil Cameron, moved from the Kerrisdale here.

Bob Brown, manager of the Vancouver Capilano Baseball Club, is one of the three promoters of the Okanagan Drive-In Theatre Ltd. being built at Penticton. The other directors are two Penticton contractors. Harry Kenyon and Jack Dalrymple. The location, 13 acres of former Indian Reserve land, is near Penticton. Project will cost in the neighborhood of \$75,000 plus the purchase price of the land, \$5500.

Three future showmen, all boys, were born this week to Frank Gow Jr., manager of FP's Broadway; Brenton Kelly, manager of the Odeon Oak Theatre, Burnaby; and Bill Hood, owner of the Lux Theatre at Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan. No cigars to date.

A local visitor was Arthur Gottlieb of Audio Studios, Toronto who reports that company may make a movie in the Vancouver district. Charles Chaplin, U.A. Canadian head, also here.

Martha Raye of stage, screen and radio is appearing at the Cave Supper Club on a two weeks' engagement and is playing to big crowds with an excellent press.

Another headache for theatre-men is that the Vancouver Pacific hockey team have made the play-offs and will play the New Westminster Royals in the semi-finals. The local team has had a big season, playing to 6,000 and 7,000 fans per game.

Prince George in Northern B.C. will have a new and up-to-date theatre shortly, to be built by a Seattle man. The town now has two theatres with a total seating capacity of around 800. Population is approx. 3,000. Herb Stevenson operates both theatres.

Now that the power shortage is at an end, theatre business has picked up in both the downtown and suburban theatres. With a flock of ace attractions on view showmen are happy again. Best were "Johnny Belinda" — second week at Cinema, "Snake Pit", — third week at Strand. "Words and Music", — second week at Capitol, "Loves of Carmen" at Vogue and "Whispering Smith" at the Orpheum all doing excellent business.

The Odeon Circuit has switched two downtown managers, Al Mitchell of the Odeon-Hastings takes over the Paradise and Bob Fraser moves from the Paradise to the Hastings. . . The Cinema interrupted their film showings for two days for stage presentations of "Macbeth" and "Hamlet." The Shakespearean plays did good business.

Movie columnist and radio commentator Clyde Gilmore who was rumoured to fill the post left vacant by the recent death of Roly Young on the Toronto Globe and Mail, has left the Vancouver Province and joined the Vancouver Sun as movie columnist.

Peter Egan, manager of the Palace, Calgary, built his campaign for "The Winners' Circle" around the fact that Johnny Longden, world-famed jockey, came from Taber in Alberta. Egan got Longden to donate a pony, complete with saddle and bridle, as a prize for juveniles attending a Good Deed show at the Palace.

The Fox Theatre, in the Oak-Bay district of Victoria, opened this week. The main section of the new building is of the "Quonset Type." Fully modern, the theatre has a seating capacity of 434. Policy will be two changes weekly. Bernard Nixon and Glen Walkey head the independently owned Nixon Amusements Ltd. Nixon, who will manage the Fox, has had 20 years' experience in Calgary, Lethbridge and other Eastern points. The capital city of B.C., Victoria, now has nine theatres.

A Vancouver actress and a noted screen star who made his stage debut in B.C. are in the cast of "The Shop at Sly Corner", a murder melodrama being played on New York's Broadway. Mary MacLeod, former city school teacher and amateur actress who left for Hollywood during the war, has the role of an antique dealer's daughter. The antique dealer is Boris Karloff, England's gift to horror pictures, who first acted on the stage at Kamloops in B.C. and appeared in other Western Canadian communities in his early theatrical days.

According to statistics, British Columbia people are still spending as much if not more, on amusement, BUT the amusement dollar is being cut many ways under present-day competition. If exhibitors want a larger share of amusement money, they will have to DIG for it — with showmanship. The gravy train has departed.

FOR SALE THEATRE CHAIRS

We now have a very large stock of excellent reconditioned (as new) Theatre Chairs. Quantities up to 1200 of a kind. Immediate delivery.

NOW — New all-steel construction spring-edge, highest quality Theatre Chairs available.

7500 yards of imported carpet direct from England and Scotland.

Enquiries Respectfully Solicited

"LA SALLE"

RECREATIONS LTD.

(Theatre Seating and Carpet Division)

S. A. LECHTZIER, Pres.

945 Granville St. - Vancouver, B.C.

Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER

THE short, "Girls in White", attracted much attention at the Capitol Theatre, Saint John. A half-page ad in the daily press urged young women to see the picture and follow up the idea at one of thirteen New Brunswick hospitals. The ad was sponsored by ten Saint John firms. A newspaper had an interview with R. H. Gale, superintendent of the Saint John General Hospital, in which he urged all young girls about to graduate from High School to see the film and consider entering the profession. James Mitchell, manager of the Capitol, told of the opportunity the picture gave for young girls to see the story of nurse's training and work. The film, an RKO short subject, was shown in conjunction with "The Paradine Case". By a coincidence, a "Capping" ceremony took place at St. Joseph's Hospital in the city while the picture of Nursing was being shown.

A. I. Garson, Odeon representative in the Maritimes, and Mrs. Garson have returned from a visit to Florida . . . J. A. McCalvey of the Capitol Theatre, Tracadie, N.B., was in Saint John this week and reports business as "fair" but weather conditions have interfered.

Paramount Appeal Denied In "No Smoking" Case

The appeal made by Famous Players' Paramount Theatre, Saint John, against a decision forbidding smoking in that theatre was dismissed by Judge Barry on Thursday. Paramount Theatre was represented by the manager, F. Harrison Howe, against the order of the Fire Marshal, H. M. Armstrong, last November. Affidavits were presented by the theatre's lawyer, C. F. Inches, from Morris Stein, Eastern Division Manager for Famous Players; Roland George Darby of Toronto, Insurance Department, Famous Players; and Harold S. Kaplan, Famous Players architect, as well as one from John T. Shelly, Fire Marshal of Calgary. A. F. Limerick, Fredericton, presented affidavits from the Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, the former Fire Chief and the present Fire Chief against smoking in the theatres. The Judge in his decision against allowing the appeal stated that much in the affidavits presented by the petition had to do with the building being of a fireproof nature and remarked that Mr. Limerick had pointed out that "the fact that it was felt necessary to fireproof hangings and floors to prevent cigarettes causing a fire, raises the assumption that there is danger of fire occurring."

Miss Margaret McGivern, on the Saint John staff of MGM, will have a leave of absence owing to the necessity for a rest . . . Halifax and Sydney Theatres will have strong opposition as the playoffs for the senior hockey teams begin in those cities. At St. Andrews, N.B., Barbara Ann Scott appears in a widely publicized carnival . . . F. Gordon Spencer of the F. G. Spencer Co. Ltd. has been at Charlottetown where the company operates two theatres.

Harry Chaney of the Community, Grand Harbour, Grand Manan, another visitor, tells of a good season on

that island. Also from Grand Manan in the city this week was Ted Griffin of the Happy Hour Theatre. This theatre has been renovated, has new seats and boasts the only neon sign on the island . . . George Fielding of the Empire, Kentville, N.S., (F. G. Spencer Co. Ltd.) paid a visit to Saint John and enjoyed a spot of bowling with the Film and Theatres Club and did a very creditable job at the sport . . . Mrs. E. D. Nesbitt of the Star Theatre, Edmundston, N.B., is visiting friends in Saint John.

* * *

Lovers of Abbott and Costello will have six days to see their "heroes" for they will be seen at the Strand Theatre, Saint John, in "A Mexican Hayride" for an entire week.

Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

BILTMORE

"Old Los Angeles" (Rep), with William Warren and John Carroll. Also "Homicide for Three" (Rep), with Warren Douglas and Jane Frazee.

DOWNTOWN

"The Lucky Stiff" (UA), with Brian Donlevy, Claire Trevor and Dorothy Lamour. Also "Million Dollar Weekend" (Int'l), with Gene Raymond and Francis Lederer.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI

"The Boy With Green Hair" (RKO), Technicolor, with Pat O'Brien and Dean Stockwell.

IMPERIAL

Second week. "Every Girl Should Be Married" (RKO), with Cary Grant and Betsy Drake.

LOEW'S

Second week. "Command Decision" (MGM), with Clark Gable and Walter Pidgeon.

ODEON TORONTO

"Wake of the Red Witch" (Rep.), with John Wayne and Gail Russell.

SHEA'S-NORTOWN

Second week. "Yellow Sky" (20th-Fox), with Richard Widmark, Gregory Peck and Anne Baxter.

UPTOWN

"Bad Men of Tombstone" (AA), with Barry Sullivan and Marjorie Reynolds. Also "Henry the Rainmaker" (Mono.), with Raymond Walburn and Walter Catlett.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"Cry of the City" (20th-Fox), with Victor Mature and Richard Conte.

IMPERIAL

"Angel on the Amazon" (Rep.), with George Brent and Vera Ralston. Also "I, Jane Doe" (Rep.), with Ruth Hussey and John Carroll.

LOEW'S

2nd week. "The Paleface" (Para.), Technicolor, with Bob Hope and Jane Russell.

ORPHEUM

2nd week. "The Time of Your Life" (UA), with James Cagney and William Bendix.

PALACE

"June Bride" (WB), with Bette Davis and Robert Montgomery.

PRINCESS

8th week. "Johnny Belinda" (WB), with Jane Wyman and Lew Ayres.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"The Paradine Case" (SRO), with Gregory Peck and Ann Todd.

MAYFAIR

"Out of the Past" (RKO), with Robert Mitchum and Jane Greer.

PARAMOUNT

"Two Guys from Texas" (WB), Technicolor, with Dennis Morgan and Jack Carson.

STRAND

"Mexican Hayride" (UI), with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

2nd week. "When My Baby Smiles at Me" (20th-Fox), Technicolor, with Betty Grable and Dan Dailey.

GAIETY

3rd week. "June Bride" (WB), with Bette Davis and Robert Montgomery.

GARRICK

2nd week. "He Walked by Night" (Int'l), with Richard Basehart and Scott Brady.

METROPOLITAN

"Fighter Squadron" (WB), Technicolor, with Edmond O'Brien and Robert Stack.

ODEON

"Fame is the Spur" (EL), with Michael Redgrave and Rosamund John.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"Miss Tatlock's Millions" (Para.), with John Lund and Wanda Hendrix.

GRAND

"Red River" (UA), with John Wayne and Montgomery Clift.

PALACE

"Roadhouse" (20th-Fox), with Richard Widmark and Ida Lupino. Also "Bungalow 13" (20th-Fox), with Tom Conway and Margaret Hamilton.

STRAND

"Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" (SRO), with Cary Grant, Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL

2nd week. "Words and Music" (MGM), Technicolor, with June Allyson and Gene Kelly.

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA

2nd week. "Johnny Belinda" (WB), with Jane Wyman and Lew Ayres. Also "Smart Girls Don't Talk" (WB), with Virginia Mayo and Bruce Bennett.

ORPHEUM

"Whispering Smith" (Para.), Technicolor, with Alan Ladd and Brenda Marshall.

PLAZA

"The Fighting O'Flynn" (UI), with Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Helena Carter.

STRAND

2nd week. "The Snake Pit" (20th-Fox), with Olivia DeHavilland and Mark Stevens.

VOGUE

"The Loves of Carmen" (Col.), Technicolor, with Rita Hayworth and Glenn Ford.

Screen Reviews By Mr. Public

By STEPHEN VISE

"Gaslight Follies" Twenty-Three Skidoo

"GASLIGHT FOLLIES" is a hilarious commentary on the tastes, entertainment and personalities of the past. Contrary to the popular belief that skeletons should be locked in closets, producers Joseph E. Levine and Maxwell A. Finn decided that the public needed to look at a few skeletons to get some good laughs. Digging deep into the dusty files of the "silent screen" and early newsreels and stage successes, they concocted a four-act movie that rips along with all the corn and ad libbing of a first rate vaudeville show.

Act I, the "Stars of Yesteryear", brings to life in flickering snatches the characteristic poses and roles of Mary Pickford, Doug Fairbanks, Sr., William S. Hart, Tom Mix, Lon Chaney, Rudolph Valentino, Marie Dressler, Charlie Chaplin, Will Rodgers, Colleen Moore, and scores of others whose names have become legendary to the moviegoing public.

Act II, "The Drunkard", is a heckling film version of a stage classic that was written in 1844 as a protest against drinking. Complete with the villain, the virtuous heroine and her child, and the noble but polluted husband who reforms in the end, this unbelievably saccharin melodrama which once wrung tears of pity now backfires in a torrent of tears from laughter.

Act III, "Time Marches Back", has John B. Kennedy narrating on the newsy items of thirty years or so ago; Teddy Roosevelt chopping wood, Eddy Windsor being made the Prince of Wales, the Jeffries-Fitzsimmons fight, Babe Ruth talking to the "Kid" (Jackie Coogan), and a host of other personages who fade each day from the contemporary memory. Funniest of all is a Miss America beauty contest of 1905 in which every beauty was a walking pair of B.V.D.'s.

Act IV, "East Lynne", is a reshooting of a 1912 tearjerker which has radio celebrities Milton Cross and Ethel Owen poking fun at it from the audience. One of the stars of that picture was Alan Hale who, after thirty years, has changed only slightly in appearance.

Whether old or young no one will leave the "Gaslight Follies" with a straight face. Picture is distributed in Canada by Alliance Films Ltd.

"Brigadoon" Author To Do Astaire-Rogers Vehicle

Allen Jay Lerner who wrote the book and lyrics of "Brigadoon" is at the M-G-M studio to work on an untitled production for Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. The dancing duo were re-united in "Barkleys of Broadway" recently completed by M-G-M.

"Three Godfathers" A 'Maternal' Western

DIRECTOR John Ford, who has never been at a loss to produce first-rate westerns, has come through again with a picture which is definitely above average. Without being an outstanding movie, "Three Godfathers" is extremely well done and satisfying, and it has a basic appeal that should endear it to the hearts of almost any type of audience. Its technicolor photography is easily one of the best color productions of the year for its sheer beauty and clearness.

Although the story concerns three outlaws pursued by the law, it is not primarily a blood and thunder western — in fact, it is a western with a maternal instinct. Three soft-hearted thieves fleeing to an Arizona desert after robbing a bank, are left with an infant by a mother whom they find dying by the wayside. Pledging to be its godfathers, they change its diapers, rub it with axle grease, feed it precious water from their one canteen, and fight their way across the desert and salt flats in order to bring it to safety. Only one reaches town alive with the baby.

The picture is really quite sentimental, but it is handled with enough humor and pathos to make it an absorbing tale of devotion. The authenticity of the desert scenes and the natural awkwardness of the three inexperienced men caring for an infant make this story seem more credible than it really is. Even the religious tone of the picture (shown by its Biblical symbolism of the three men, the child, the star in the East, and the donkey and its hymn-like musical setting) does not seem out of place.

John Wayne (Robert Hightower), Pedro Armendariz (Pedro), and Harry Carey Jr. (William) — son of the late Hary Carey, to whom the picture was dedicated — are convincing godfathers to their diapered find (Robert William Pedro Hightower). Included in this excellent movie are the familiar faces of such old-timers as Ward Bond, Mae Marsh, and Jane Darwell. Picture is released by MGM.

Warners Sign John Wayne

In line with Warner Bros. studio's policy to augment its star list with the biggest box office names in the industry. Jack L. Warner, executive producer, announces the signing of John Wayne to a contract. Under this latest big deal, Wayne, whose recent pictures have catapulted him to the top list of box office attractions, will star for Warners in one picture per year for the next seven years.

Following on the heels of the Selznick and Cagney deals, this latest talent acquisition boosts the Warner Bros. star roster to the largest in the company's history.

"Every Girl Should Be Married" — Quite Right

"EVERY Girl Should Be Married" is one of the most delightful comedies to hit the Canadian screen in a long time. Taking over a timeless truth, practiced in the age of the cave-man and more recently publicized by G. B. Shaw in "Man and Superman", it shows woman for what she is — the pursuer of man. The catch to its story is the fact that Madison Brown — baby doctor, bachelor, and 'man of habits' par excellence — knows from the beginning that a certain highly eligible salesgirl, Anabel by name, is after him because she believes that every girl should be married.

At first confident of his male freedom, Madison (Cary Grant) soon finds he can't forget Anabel (Betsy Drake); his barber, boxing instructor, and even his old maid nurse, who have all been coached by Anabel, constantly put ideas of matrimony into his head. He bumps into her on the street, meets her in his favorite restaurant, sees her at a lecture he is giving, and finally consents to have dinner at her cosy home where she serves him his favorite dishes in a contrived romantic atmosphere that reminds him of a stage setting. Brown tells Anabel he doesn't love her, but is he wrong! When he learns that she has invited her playboy boss (Franchot Tone) to her home as an antidote to her sorrows, he barges into her house with the indignation of a pediatrician who sees a baby about to be given a bottle of beer. Anabel gets her doctor, and he is forced to admit that, "never before in the field of human conflict has one girl done so much for so little."

Cary Grant with his perfect sense of timing and underlying warmth of personality, which lends credulity to comedy roles, is one of the finest comedians Hollywood has. But, aside from his invariably good performance, the scene stealing goes to wispy, soft-spoken Betsy Drake who plays the girl with ingenuous exterior and an inner wizardry for anticipating man's needs. Completely naive and clever at the same time she is the answer to a producer's prayer for a born comedienne.

The excellent supporting cast of Franchot Tone and Diana Lynn and Don Hartman's tongue in cheek direction and production make this picture as good as its major stars. It gets an RKO release in Canada.

Tetzlaff To Direct "The Bail Bond Story"

Ted Tetzlaff will direct George Raft and Pat O'Brien in RKO Radio's "The Bail Bond Story," which faces the cameras on April 4.

Tetzlaff previously directed O'Brien in "Fighting Father Dunne" and the forthcoming "The Window."